

## CLAIMS

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1. A method for providing simultaneous access to a common file on a computer network comprising at least one computer, said method including the steps of:  
partitioning a first memory on said at least one computer to provide a first user with a first partition to store updates to files corresponding to said first user, said first  
5 memory at least partially inaccessible to a second user;  
partitioning a second memory on said at least one computer to provide said second user with a second partition to store updates to files corresponding to said second user, said second memory at least partially inaccessible to said first user;  
partitioning a third memory on said at least one computer to store selected  
10 updates from said first and second user partitions to create a first common partition such that said first and second users have associated partition chains comprising said first and second partitions, respectively, and said common partition;  
selectively storing desired updates from said first and second user partitions in said first common partition; and  
15 providing each of said first and second users access to said first common partition.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said first, second and third memories reside on ~~different computers.~~
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said first common partition comprises a library partition.

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4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of providing information in said library partition to an archival partition.

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5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of creating a second common partition such that said first and second users and a third user may access said additional common partition but said third user may not access said first common partition.

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6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
creating a new partition based upon a subset of said first partition;  
providing said new partition to said second memory such that said new partition  
becomes part of said second user's partition chain.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said new partition includes an update or an  
annotation to a CD-ROM.

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8. A method for providing simultaneous access to a common file on a computer  
network, said network including at least two local computers and at least one remote  
computer coupled to each of said at least two local computers, said method including the  
steps of:

5 partitioning memories on said local computers into journal partitions that store  
updates to said file;

partitioning memories on said local computers into local library partitions that  
store information from respective ones of said journal files;

10 updating at least one of said journal files while its associated computer is  
disconnected from said remote computer;

transmitting said updates from said associated computer to said remote computer  
after said remote computer is reconnected with said remote computer;

receiving updates on said remote computer from each of said at least two local  
computers;

15 partitioning a memory on said remote computer into a remote partition that stores  
said updates from said at least two local computers; and

merging said updates from said at least two local computers into said remote  
partition.

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